

Some of our interests.

It is pleasant to turn occasionally from the turmoil elections to the consideration of vital interests upon which, in the main, all parties are or ought to be agreed.

At the present time there are two things which are or ought to be regarded, as of this character. We allude to the improvement of our harbor, being the securing of our free communication with the world without and the Charlotte Railroad, so essential to our full enjoyment of communication and intercourse with the world within our own borders.

The present is almost wholly a new Congress, and so far as we are concerned, with reference to the appropriation necessary for the continuance of the work at the mouth of our river, we have no means of judging what its disposition may be. Had the old landmarks remained, we might, at least have been able to form a pretty good guess; as it is, we are completely at sea, and can only hope for the best, without having other ground than hope to go upon. So far as the money already appropriated has been expended, we have reason to know that the results of the work done have fully answered the expectations and come up to the hopes of the commission by which the plan was devised. Actual and positive advantages have accrued, sufficient to show that the full carrying out of the scheme is alone necessary to the accomplishment of all the good proposed to be effected; the restoration of our bar to its former depth of eighteen to twenty-one feet. Under the able and conscientious superintendence of Capt. Woodbury, we feel confident that every cent expended has been laid out to the best advantage.

But, the appropriation already made will be exhausted, or nearly so, in the course of the current fiscal year, ending June 30th, 1856, and, unless Congress make a further appropriation, the work must then stop for want of funds. We need not say that this will be a most untoward event, and one deeply to be regretted. The work has received the imprimatur of the highest scientific authority in the United States. Its perfect practicability has been demonstrated by the favorable effect of the work so far as it has progressed. In regard to its constitutional, nationality and importance, the question seems to have been settled by the votes and the cooperation of very many of the very strictest constructionists in both houses, as well as by the approbation of the President. We feel confident that the delegation from this State, without distinction of party, will warmly believe the measure, and that our immediate Representative, Hon. Warren Winslow, will use his best efforts in its behalf. We trust it may not be snowed under or neglected in the grand fight and fuss anticipated by many as likely to form the order of the day at one end of the Capitol. The House being a new one, the committees likely to be new, and, in a great measure, unopposed in matters of this kind, and their attention not directed to the considerations which secured the passage of the former appropriation, we would suggest that suitable memorials to Congress should be prepared and signed, and all other similar measures taken to exhibit the deep interest felt by the people of Wilmington and of the State. We merely throw out these suggestions loosely, our object being simply to awaken attention, not to point out omissions.

There are six counties between this place and Charlotte. We understand that the arrangement is that the \$200,000 subscribed on the part of town is not to be called for until other \$600,000 is subscribed by other parties east of Charlotte, or an average of \$100,000 per county. Well, it will take pretty hard pulling to get that much up, but it ought to be got up without fail. Give money—give work—give something, so the road is built, for that is wanted.

It is true there are portions of seven counties, but the road will not go through very much of this county, nor of Mecklenburg East of Charlotte, still the town of Charlotte, and the portion of the county east can make up the quota very easily. Anson ought to more than make up anything that Union might be short, and Richmond, Robeson, Bladen, and private subscriptions in or out of town here ought to make the other \$300,000. Many efforts—big rallies—strong pulls will have to be made, before the thing is done, but done it can be, and done it must be, and done it will be. It won't do to get disheartened first and going off. They are gradually coming up in Union and in other counties—Charlotte will redeem herself, and the iron horse will yet connect us. But we must not expect the current to run always smooth. Unexpected obstacles may have to be met and overcome, and they will be.

By the way, the Deep River is coming along right fast. Water from it passes our wharves every day, and the main part of the work is done, but somehow, the work itself, is always about to be never is. Well, we must live in hope—the South side of Sebastian is taken—perhaps something may yet be done. The Lord send the time—we shall be happy to see it.

THE SAVANNAH ELECTION.—We find on examination that we fell into an error last week in our notice of the result of the municipal election held in Savannah on Monday last. Instead of electing the whole Board of Aldermen, the Democrats elected ten out of twelve. Richard Bradley, Esq., formerly of this place, is one of the two candidates of the opposite party elected. Mr. Anderson, the Mayor, it seems is also of the opposite party. We made the mistake through a too hasty glance at the article in the *Georgian*. However, it is virtually a Democratic triumph, and if all the Democratic candidates could not be elected, the next best thing was the election of our former townsman, Mr. Bradley. Mr. Anderson, who is re-elected Mayor, seems to enjoy a high degree of personal popularity, to which he owes his re-election.

THE NORTH-EASTERN RAILROAD.—We learn from the Charleston Mercury that "there are now twenty-five miles of the North-Eastern Railroad finished and in full operation; in the course of some weeks another section of five miles will be opened, completing the road to the station known as Monk's corner." The Mercury appears to take for granted that this road, through its extension, the Darlington and Cheraw Road, will eventually have its terminus at the coal fields in North Carolina. To completely checkmate all attempts to divert North Carolina trade from North Carolina works and towns, it is necessary that these works should be energetically pressed forward. The full certainty of the Charlotte Road, with the commencement of active operations on it—the long deferred opening of the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation—the construction of the Fayetteville and Western Road—would be so many actual physical obstacles to the tapping of the State, as would put the thing out of the reach of fear. There is no such exuberant, boiling over and superfluous capital South of us, as might be supposed from what is sometimes read and heard. The North-Eastern Road is not finished yet, and it is a pretty hard drag, and the big talk about building roads for the people of North Carolina is all gammon, for the purpose of distracting and dividing the strength which ought to be thrown in favor of measures essential to our State independence.

Congress.

As yet no organization of the House, nor much prospect of it. The rumor that the Democrats intended to run Howell Cobb in place of Mr. Richardson, turns out to be one of those groundless reports so rife in the brains of Washington correspondents. Up to the time of adjournment on Wednesday afternoon, there had been fifteen ballots for Speaker, without result. On the last balloting the vote stood as follows:—For Lewis D. Campbell, 80; W. A. Richardson, 74; H. M. Fuller, 19. The balance of the votes scattered among Messrs. Whitney, Smith, Banks, Pennington, Marshall, Puryear, Thurston, Mace, Nichols and Oliver. Whole number of votes cast, 219; necessary to a choice, 110. We hardly look for the Message this week. One thing is certain, the true Democrats will coalesce with nothing unbecomingly.

No result yet, and consequently no message. Up to Thursday evening there had been 21 ballots for Speaker of the House of Representatives. The vote cast for Mr. Richardson, the Democratic candidate, varies very slightly, and is near about the same on the 21st as on the 1st balloting. On the last he got 71, and L. D. Campbell, the highest on the opposition list, 46. The fact is that the Democratic vote is the only thing fixed. The opposition keeps "sloshing around" between half a dozen. Of course, there are speculations innumerable, but we see no figures that can figure out a Speaker this week.

A general feeling of uneasiness appears to be gaining ground. A fear that a long contest will render any harmonious organization impossible, and that a flare up now may be only the beginning of the end. The strange predominance of *isms*—the reins given to ultra notions, all add to the danger of the position, because they weaken the reliance which formerly existed in the ultimate good sense and conservative feeling of Congress. No such reliance can be placed in the strangely compounded majority of the House. Some Southern men we know have gone on determined to do the best and work for the best; but at the same time prepared for the worst. The total want of mutual reliance is the great element of danger. We know not what may be the result, but feel certain that a few more such Congresses must prove fatal to the Union. So much for the first fruits of "Sam's" ascendancy.

Well, all the factions at the North made common cause against the Democracy and the Democratic Administration, and they carried the North and they defeated "Pierce," and the Southern opposition rejoiced in the defeat of "Pierce" by the said factions. Congress has met and there is a pretty kettle of fish, surely. The only right up and down crowd are the friends of the said "Pierce," and they stick up for a straight-out national man for Speaker, having passed straight-out national resolutions in their caucus. They are in the minority, to be sure, but they occupy as bold a position as though there was not an opponent in the world.

Now don't it strike every honest Southern man, in view of the present position of things in and out of the House, that there might have been a great many better movements, both in Southern and in a national point of view, than this raid against the Democratic party? Don't it seem as though the old Whig strength might have been more advantageously employed than in combining with all sorts of people to produce the state of things now known to exist? We cannot but think so. We cannot but think that the sober second thought of reflecting, conservative and patriotic men all over the country will sustain us in entertaining this opinion. Upon the whole, don't it strike anybody with half an eye or half a thought, that this much abused "Pierce," and the equally abused party with which he acts, and which acts with him, stand a long way ahead, in nationality and fidelity to the South, of all the combined elements opposed to them in the House? But it would seem that we are more than half mistaken in our reference to "combined" elements. The only real combination was to carry the elections—beyond that there seems to be anything else than unity or combination. There is no decided principle of action embracing all the interests of all the country—no cohesive power save the desire for office and the wild opposition to the national administration. However powerful these elements may be for purposes of distraction and opposition, they must be totally powerless for useful or conservative action. Look at the thing as it stands and judge it by its developments.

OUTRAGE.—A strange outrage has just come to our knowledge, which indicates a necessity for the adoption of the most stringent measures of patrol. Within the last two weeks Mr. H. Wood, formerly ferryman at the Market street ferry, was going out to a place he is working, about four miles from town, when two negroes sprang out of the bushes, and one of them struck his horse over the head with a stick and killed him. Mr. Wood was lame from the effect of some injury, and therefore happened to have a stick, with which he struck the negro and knocked him down—the other picked up his prostrate companion and made off. It was after sunset, but not very dark. Mr. Wood did not recognize the negroes. It occurred, we learn, about twelve days ago.

GOULD'S LADY'S BOOK for January is at hand, with steel plates and numerous illustrations on Wood—a capital number, and a handsome opening for the new volume. Price \$3 a year for a single copy; two copies for \$5.

LETTERS FROM EUROPE.—The British and North American Royal mail steamship America, arrived at this port last night from Liverpool with advices to the 24th ult. There is nothing important in her news relative to the war question, with the exception of rumors of a probability of peace being made, which, however, are not generally credited.

It is rumored that General Canby has concluded a treaty with Sweden to the effect that she shall join the Western powers by land and sea in the spring, on condition of Finland being restored to her. It is rumored, also, that Denmark will follow the course of Sweden. It is, likewise, stated that the Prussian Envoy met the Czar at Nicholasief, and extracted from him Asia's war aims. The Czar was willing to treat for peace. All peace rumors, however, are considered very doubtful. The only intelligence of interest from the Crimea is that the Allies intend commencing a grand bombardment against the North side of Sebastopol. The difficulty between the United States and Greece has been settled.

THE LATEST.—[By telegraph from London to Liverpool.] It is confidently stated that Lord Palmerston has determined on an immediate dissolution of Parliament and to call a new one by February.

COPENHAGEN, Friday.—Canby is expected here tomorrow, and that General Canby has concluded a treaty with Sweden to the effect that she shall join the Western powers by land and sea in the spring, on condition of Finland being restored to her. It is rumored, also, that Denmark will follow the course of Sweden. It is, likewise, stated that the Prussian Envoy met the Czar at Nicholasief, and extracted from him Asia's war aims. The Czar was willing to treat for peace. All peace rumors, however, are considered very doubtful. The only intelligence of interest from the Crimea is that the Allies intend commencing a grand bombardment against the North side of Sebastopol. The difficulty between the United States and Greece has been settled.

Col. Campbell returns to the Crimea at the end of his leave of absence.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Nov. 12.—The last accounts from Asia say Omar Pacha was expecting battle at Mouratienoff, having attached a division of his army, which was making forced marches for Kutaria. The London News denies that the alleged Swedish alliance, and says that there is no present prospect of such an event.

Lady Stewart Worley died at Beyrout on the 27th of October.

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Arrival of the St. Louis.

New York, Dec. 6.—The fine steamship St. Louis has arrived. She sails from Havre via Southampton, and brings London dates to the 21st. Her mails contain many interesting items not included in the despatches from Halifax yesterday, per the Cunard steamship America.

MAGAZINES BLOWN UP.—Three extensive magazines, belonging to the French Artillery, were blown up near Inkermann, not long since, involving great destruction of human life. Seventy men and two officers were instantly killed, and one hundred men and ten officers wounded.

The magazine contained 30,000 kilograms of powder, and 600,000 cartridges—also, 300 heavily charged shells. All exploded with terrible effect. **TAKEN DOWN FIRST AT PARIS.**—A tremendous fire had occurred at Paris, entirely consuming the Government Bakery, which contained 28,000 quintals (3,136,000 lbs.) of corn, and about the same quantity of flour biscuit.

WRECK OF AN AMERICAN VESSEL.—The fine ship America had been wrecked off the coast of Gibraltar. She was sold by the underwriters, and got off by purchases.

RUSSIAN DESTRUCTION OF GRAIN.—An Allied Florida, or fleet of small vessels, sent for the special purpose, had destroyed an immense quantity of Russian grain on the coast of Greece. The grain was packed up in the granaries six tiers deep, and extended for two miles along the coast. It was intended for the Crimean army, and, being destroyed, will materially lessen their supplies.

DISMISSAL OF MENSCHIKOFF.—The Czar has dismissed Menschikoff, as Chief of the Russian staff, and appointed Gen. Aldenbury in his stead.

It is stated that Gen. Mourvieuville was so overcome by the defeat at Kars, that he has gone insane. Gen. Bubuffoff, assumes the command. [Well may it be asked what's in a name?]

The Know-Nothings adding England.

The Pseudo-Americans have, already, not only stopped emigration from Canada to our territories, and diverted a vast amount from Europe intended for this country to Canada, but they have also, by persecution and violence, expelled many of our foreign-born citizens, and started a stream of emigration from our dominions to those of England. Thus they will build up a mighty power North of us, of justly incensed and implacable enemies. These enemies, too, will be men as independent in their feelings and as warlike as ourselves. The Canadians resemble not the oppressed, degraded, down-trodden, cowering peasantry of England. The experience of the last war with England leaves no room for doubt on that subject. But for the Know-Nothings, Canada would soon have declared herself independent, and become our friend and ally. They are endeavoring to make her our only formidable enemy. All of Europe combined could not successfully assail us, because they could not reach us; but, build up a great power on this continent, North of us, and we shall have formidable if not dangerous enemies. The Know-Nothings have not reflected on these consequences of their action, or they would surely desist from their cruel proscription and persecution of Catholics and foreigners.

England is endeavoring to check our growth and prosperity, is the more rapid growth of Canada—a growth which the Know-Nothings are trying to accelerate a hundred fold. Read the following from a bitter and abusive article from an English paper, which we published in the Enquirer of 29th November:

"In Canada, too, we are calling into existence a new people, a new race, and a magnificent territory, destined to become a preponderant element to Yankee aggressive violence in the New World, already increasing in prosperity and population even more rapidly than the United States, and not only arresting the tide of emigration thither by its growing attractiveness, but actually drawing from them their best citizens."—*Richmond Enquirer*.

From the Spirit of the Times.

ARKANSAS SNIPES.—"Good bye! Take care of yourself, and give those bears particular fits!" sung out Dory, as the plank of the steamboat on which we were bound down the Mississippi was drawn in, and we left our friend Monroe—one night last winter on the wharfbreak at Napoleon, Arkansas.

We should have left him in pitch darkness had it not been for the pitch-pine lights which shed a halo of glory around his head, and the tail of his Newfoundland dog. They were bound up the Arkansas River on a bear hunt. A more whole-souled man, or a finer dog, never walked—although a Scotch terrier is a better dog for bears—and as we left him behind there was a sense of something lost.

In order to find composure and fill up the vacuum, we adjourned to the Exchange or Social Hall of the steamboat to take a "snifter." On entering the favored region we were at once made aware of the fact that the Racksackians at Napoleon considered a fair exchange no robbery; in payment of our hotel bill, of course, we were given a glass of Oliver of an Arkansas. He was a beauty. Straight as a line, of a racy sapling, and fully as tough, he seemed to be just the stuff that red-eye whisky-barrel hoops are made of—water-proof at that. He was already a firm friend of the barkeeper, having taken two drinks in advance of ninety seconds, and as he still wore a thirsty look in his left eye, we at once asked him to take another.

"Strain gear," said he, "count me in that!"

So we did, and after drinks all round, we settled about the stove with cigars. Conversation soon fell on bear-hunting, deer-hunting, and finally was closing up with a description of a "mighty big coon hunt," wherein way of putting whisky hors d'oeuvre, or out of harm's way—cut down an untold number of cotton-wood or pekan trees, and pitched into a live oak till he made dead wood of it; and finally killed on the top of a live oak, a coon, whose united weight he judged to be well on to a ton.

After this we knew the man, but Dory, in whose locks the "hay-seed" still gleamed, was moved, in turn, to tell his tale of hunting, and dwelt long and feebly on a certain snipe-shooting excursion, wherein each gunner bagged his four dozen birds—he drew it strong, being away from home—and went on saving about how the snipe rose and fell, until Racksackian woke up with the question:

"What 'ar snipe?"

"Snipe," said Dory, "are the best game that flies. The kind I mean are called English or Wilson's snipe, and are splendid! Long legs, long bills, dusky hue!"

"Stranger, stop that! I've seen the critters; know 'em like an old boot," interrupted the Racksackian, "and I've been down in the Lewinswamp!"

"I have! Do you really eat them 'ar critters at the North?"

"Certainly we do," said Dory; "but you said you had been down in the Louisiana swamps—winter there, I expect?"

"Winter and summer both. Thar 'ar a few, I should think, in Arkansas! Two of my boys was down chopin' wood for the steamer 'tother day, and then 'ar the sun so hot that they come back at night and said thar was a camp meetin' goin' on down the river."

"Sing!" inquired Dory. "That is singular. At the North, as they rise, I have heard them utter a low whistle, but never knew they sung before!"

"Sing!" said the Racksackian; "they sing so they make my hair stand on end. You really shoot them 'ar critters on the North?"

"Come up to my plantation and shoot off the crop thar, I'll give you the best horse you can pick out, and throw in a nigger to take care of him."

"Where do you live?" asked Dory. "If ever I am up your way, you'll have to owe me a horse and a nigger."

"Wall, stranger, I live at Powder-horn Point, on Mott's Creek, about thirty miles from Napoleon, and cuss me if the man that shot them 'ar birds for me don't be my eternal friend—he will!" Look here, the infernal things pitched into my youngest child arter it was born, so that its head swelled up as big as a pumpkin!"

"Pitched into your child?—swelled head!—big as a pumpkin! Did snipe do this?" asked Dory, in great hopes of having discovered something new.

"Wall, they did! Leastwise what you call snipe. We call 'em musk-kee-ters!"

Grand tableau. Curtain descends to slow music of tiddy-tidies, broken ice, and the song of an Arkansas Snipe!

A GRAVE QUESTION.—A correspondent of an exchange paper put the following question to the police:

PROBABILITIES OF PEACE IN EUROPE.—"Observer," the intelligent European correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger, writing of the Eastern war from Lyons, under date of the 13th ult., says the chances of peace have wonderfully increased, and continue to do so since the winter has set in, and rendered further operations in the Crimea and the Baltic impossible. We quote from his letter:

"Before I left Germany I was quite satisfied that the governments there would peace, and it was for this reason that Austria was gaining influence and power with the German Confederation. The German States feel that united they might command peace, while, separated and stripped of all political power, the further prosecution of the war might even threaten their independence. Without the central States of Europe taking part in the war it might continue ad infinitum, and with those States involved in war a general revolution in Europe is more than probable. It is for these reasons Austria, Bavaria and Saxony have used their influence in calming the warlike propensities of the Western powers, while Prussia has been at work with the family of the Emperor of Russia to induce the government of St. Petersburg to relent from its original proposition in regard to Turkey. In this manner a peace party has been formed in St. Petersburg, at the head of which is no smaller person than the Emperor and his Prime Minister Count Nesselrode, while there is already a powerful peace party in Manchester and Liverpool, and at the Court of St. James itself. In Paris, in fine, I know that opinions favorable to peace are entertained in the highest quarters, including the Tuileries and the Palais Napoleon itself. The whole of Europe, the whole civilized world, wants peace, and so it may be said, while the armies in the Crimea are imbedded in snow, diplomacy will improve the fall by trying to arrange matters amicably; that is, in accordance with human reason."

The peace party in Paris is very strong, not indeed among the troops, but among all other classes of society. It is the immense drain of specie, caused by the war in the East, which is causing anxiety to the Emperor Napoleon, and which has rendered the return to peace a desideratum to the government.

On the other hand, the devoted friends of Russia feel the burden of war severely as the Western powers. Her external commerce is entirely annihilated, her fields deserted of the agricultural laborer, who has turned soldier, her produce consumed unproductively by an idle and voracious soldiery, and the flower of her young men mutilated or consigned to the grave. Russia has probably lost more men by fatigue and inadequate food than by the fire of the allied armies, for without some such drain on her troops, the employment of Drushchinskoy, or armed peasants, against the veteran troops of England and France would scarcely be explicable. The loss of so many serfs, too, presses heavily on the nobles, who thereby lose their best hands for cultivating their estates; while the quartering of troops, the furnishing of horses and wagons for their transportation, and all the other numerous charges which the war entails on the nobility of Russia, has in no small degree jampered the warlike spirit of the nobles, who have in aid of superstition and fanaticism.

THE TEMPERANCE QUESTION.—The October number of the Westminster Review contains an article of singular ability, starting with the proposition that drunkenness cannot be cured by legislation. It is written and published in view of a very persistent effort in England to obtain the enactment of a Maine law by Parliament. It traverses the whole field of discussion of the questions of prohibition and regulation of the liquor traffic. An extract or two will serve to show the strength of the article.

"The world would be a very different world if great evils were so easily cured, and if ten lines in a statute book could crush vice and make virtue triumphant. Experience tells a different tale. It tells us that a law is in itself powerless, and that it is only strong when it is the outward and formal expression of what men really wish. Even if a law, such as the Maine Liquor law, were obeyed which might be for a time, it would only be a law-loving people, there would be no escaping, in one shape or another, the penalty of so gross an infringement of the true principles of State government. It would be an evil worse than that of drunkenness if a nation learnt to lean on the rotten scale of external enactments, and thus sapped the very foundations of right and destroyed the springs of all moral action."

Again, in regard to personal rights, the denial to men of the freedom of choice who live under the rule of laws which recognize the great fact of personal liberty—the writer remarks:

"To deny the use of intoxicating liquors altogether, to withhold by law the means of indulging because indulgence is often carried to a vicious excess, is, in fact, an attempt, in a very signal instance and of a very wide scale, to increase the sphere of State government and to diminish the sphere of individual responsibility. It would be impossible to furnish a more conspicuous example of that mode of viewing man and morals which makes wrong and right the subject of State policy and not of individual conviction."

"A subtle poison taints the moral atmosphere in which such a law is upheld. The mind of man becomes narrow and crippled when he is no longer his own master; his actions are meaningless when stripped of the beauty of choice; his sympathy for others grows dead when he has no longer to assist them in encountering moral trials and to gain and give the strength of mutual counsel. Prohibition advocates are fond of prophesying that as men cease to drink they will go to church."

"What will they then when they get there? Is the faith of the churches of Christendom so warm, their words so full of meaning, their appeal to the conscience so powerful, that they can afford to be guided by a law which, as far as the law can, leaves responsibility and obliterates the distinction between good and evil? The text will be, 'Use your freedom as those who stand or fall to their Master'; the preacher will say, 'My Christian brethren, abstain altogether, for there is a penalty of five dollars for the first offence and ten for the second.'"

LETTERS FROM TEXAS.—NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 6.—The steamship Perseverance has arrived from Galveston, with advices to the 1st inst. A bill before the Legislature of Texas proposes a loan of \$500 for each mile of Railroad built in the State, payable when fifty miles shall be completed, the State retaining a mortgage on the road. It is believed the bill will pass. Several papers in the State are urging Senator Houston to resign, in consequence of his Anti-Southern sentiments. The weather was favorable for securing the Cotton and Sugar crops.

LETTERS FROM HAVANA.—NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 5.—The steamship Cahawba has arrived at this port from Havana, with advices to the 2nd inst. Good Sugar had advanced, but the market was excited and unsettled. Molasses was better.

THEIR NATIONAL MEN.—There has been much parade about national men in the opposition ranks of the North. If there were any such caricatures, they would be the most ridiculous, having disclosed them to the country. Four House members have been started for the speakership by the fusion. Let us see who they are. The first is Hon. Lewis D. Campbell, of Ohio, a frank and straightforward abolitionist; the second is Hon. A. C. M. Pennington, of New Jersey, a resolute and old-fashioned anti-Nebraska whig; the third is Hon. Henry M. Fuller, of Pennsylvania, one of the most active supporters of the notorious William F. Johnston when that abolition leader ran for governor in the State; and the last is Hon. N. P. Banks, of Massachusetts, a gentleman who left the Democratic party because it could not and would not overlook the fact that the constitution protected the rights of the South. The only national men running against the Democratic candidate in the House are southern know-nothings, who are abjured by their northern allies.—*Washington Union*.

WALKER'S PLANS IN CENTRAL AMERICA.—A plan has been started for the revival of the old Central American Confederation, which is likely to be successful. Honduras and San Salvador, on the invitation of Gen. Walker, sent commissioners to Nicaragua, inviting propositions to that effect, and Walker has accepted them. This invitation is to be extended to Costa Rica and Guatemala, and unless accepted, it is said, will be used to counsel them. It is to be regarded as an act of hostility, if they refuse. Walker's plans already extend to all Central America.

LOBBYING IN A PLAYFUL MOOD.—The following epitaph on himself:

Here, reader, turn your weeping eyes,
My fate a useful moral teaches:
The hole which my body lies
Would not contain one-half my speeches.

THE PORT OF PETERSBURG.—The readers of your columns may be numbered by thousands, will long feel an interest in matters relating to our late desolate, but now busy town. I believe rents are as high and houses as full as in any good district of London, and a source that rendered so many of them tenanted. We see many strange faces in our streets, and many are the indications that Petersburg will soon regain her former prosperous condition, and start anew with increased thrift and enterprise.

Now instead of a literal "Thanatopsis," instead of the incessant contemplation of "the innumerable caravan" moving to the "mysterious realm—the silent halls of death," that alone greeted the vision, but a few weeks since; may now be seen unmistakable indications of life, health, industry and returning confidence and prosperity.

The Navy Yard employs its full complement of men; the Union Car Works are in successful operation. Messrs. Page & Allen, known as extensive shipbuilders have a large force employed at their yard; the Collegiate Institute has already over fifty scholars in attendance; shopkeepers are all busy in supplying the necessities and pleasures of life, and all activity pervades the place. We are beginning to appear somewhat like Petersburg, which I truly think the model City of Virginia.

Truckmen, to use a local name for market gardeners, are busy in our vicinity, in preparing to supply the northern cities with early edibles next spring; for which business, the numerous steamers for transportation, the peculiar soil of eastern Virginia and the ocean attempted climate for early vegetation, afford great facilities, may be seen in the fact, well known that the season is two or three weeks earlier on the seaboard than in the interior on the same parallel. Truly this is a region

"Where smiling spring its earliest visits pays,
And parting summer's lingering blooms delays."

Those who have so beneficently contributed of their means to relieve the numerous widows, orphans, and infirm, whose means of support have been suddenly taken from them, have thereby not only accomplished their object in the alleviation of the distressed, but have also contributed incidentally to the present comparatively prosperous and cheerful state of affairs.

Last Sabbath the Rev. Mr. Handy, who remained by his charge, the Middle St. Presbyterian Church, until he and his family were prostrated with the fever, and until both the elders and the pastor, the venerable *Boutwell* and *Trueman*, and about one-third of the members, had fallen victims; and who then left at the instance of his physician, preached an earnest and pathetic sermon, from the consolatory words of Paul "My grace is sufficient for thee." The sable habiliments and suffused eyes of the congregation too plainly indicated the awful afflictions they had sustained, both as individuals and as a Church.

In the Catholic Church yard among the numerous graves, some may be seen white crosses, and recent graves, some withered and faded, others fresh and brilliant—all placed there by the hand of affliction—spontaneous manifestations of inexpressible respect and love for the honored and faithful pastor of his flock. The leaves of box and bay—the sprigs of arbutus, all denoting constancy and friendship unchanging, are expressly entwined with the withered white rose and yellow chrysanthemum, emblems of a desolate and lonely life. The red and white white declare the love that cherishes the dead, and hardly necessary to tell the reader that this is the grave of the Rev. Francis Devlin.

Yours, &c., N. B. W.

From the Petersburg Express.

PORTSMOUTH, Nov. 26th.

DEAR EXPRESS:—The readers of your columns may be numbered by thousands, will long feel an interest in matters relating to our late desolate, but now busy town. I believe rents are as high and houses as full as in any good district of London, and a source that rendered so many of them tenanted. We see many strange faces in our streets, and many are the indications that Petersburg will soon regain her former prosperous condition, and start anew with increased thrift and enterprise.

Now instead of a literal "Thanatopsis," instead of the incessant contemplation of "the innumerable caravan" moving to the "mysterious realm—the silent halls of death," that alone greeted the vision, but a few weeks since; may now be seen unmistakable indications of life, health, industry and returning confidence and prosperity.

The Navy Yard employs its full complement of men; the Union Car Works are in successful operation. Messrs. Page & Allen, known as extensive shipbuilders have a large force employed at their yard; the Collegiate Institute has already over fifty scholars in attendance; shopkeepers are all busy in supplying the necessities and pleasures of life, and all activity pervades the place. We are beginning to appear somewhat like Petersburg, which I truly think the model City of Virginia.

Truckmen, to use a local name for market gardeners, are busy in our vicinity, in preparing to supply the northern cities with early edibles next spring; for which business, the numerous steamers for transportation, the peculiar soil of eastern Virginia and the ocean attempted climate for early vegetation, afford great facilities, may be seen in the fact, well known that the season is two or three weeks earlier on the seaboard than in the interior on the same parallel. Truly this is a region

"Where smiling spring its earliest visits pays,
And parting summer's lingering blooms delays."

Those who have so beneficently contributed of their means to relieve the numerous widows, orphans, and infirm, whose means of support have been suddenly taken from them, have thereby not only accomplished their object in the alleviation of the distressed, but have also contributed incidentally to the present comparatively prosperous and cheerful state of affairs.

Last Sabbath the Rev. Mr. Handy, who remained by his charge, the Middle St. Presbyterian Church, until he and his family were prostrated with the fever, and until both the elders and the pastor, the venerable *Boutwell* and *Trueman*, and about one-third of the members, had fallen victims; and who then left at the instance of his physician, preached an earnest and pathetic sermon, from the consolatory words of Paul "My grace is sufficient for thee." The sable habiliments and suffused eyes of the congregation too plainly indicated the awful afflictions they had sustained, both as individuals and as a Church.

In the Catholic Church yard among the numerous graves, some may be seen white crosses, and recent graves, some withered and faded, others fresh and brilliant—all placed there by the hand of affliction—spontaneous manifestations of inexpressible respect and love for the honored and faithful pastor of his flock. The leaves of box and bay—the sprigs of arbutus, all denoting constancy and friendship unchanging, are expressly entwined with the withered white rose and yellow chrysanthemum, emblems of a desolate and lonely life. The red and white white declare the love that cherishes the dead, and hardly necessary to tell the reader that this is the grave of the Rev. Francis Devlin.

Yours, &c., N. B. W.

Living in Washington.

There are many thousands of the good people of the United States who are thoroughly convinced that the per diem of a member of Congress is entirely too high; that it not only affords him the means of living in an extravagant style, but that, in spite of that extravagance, he is able to board up a large sum of money every session. To show what foundation there is for such a conviction, we have only to repeat that a member of Congress to the keeper of one of our fashionable hotels.